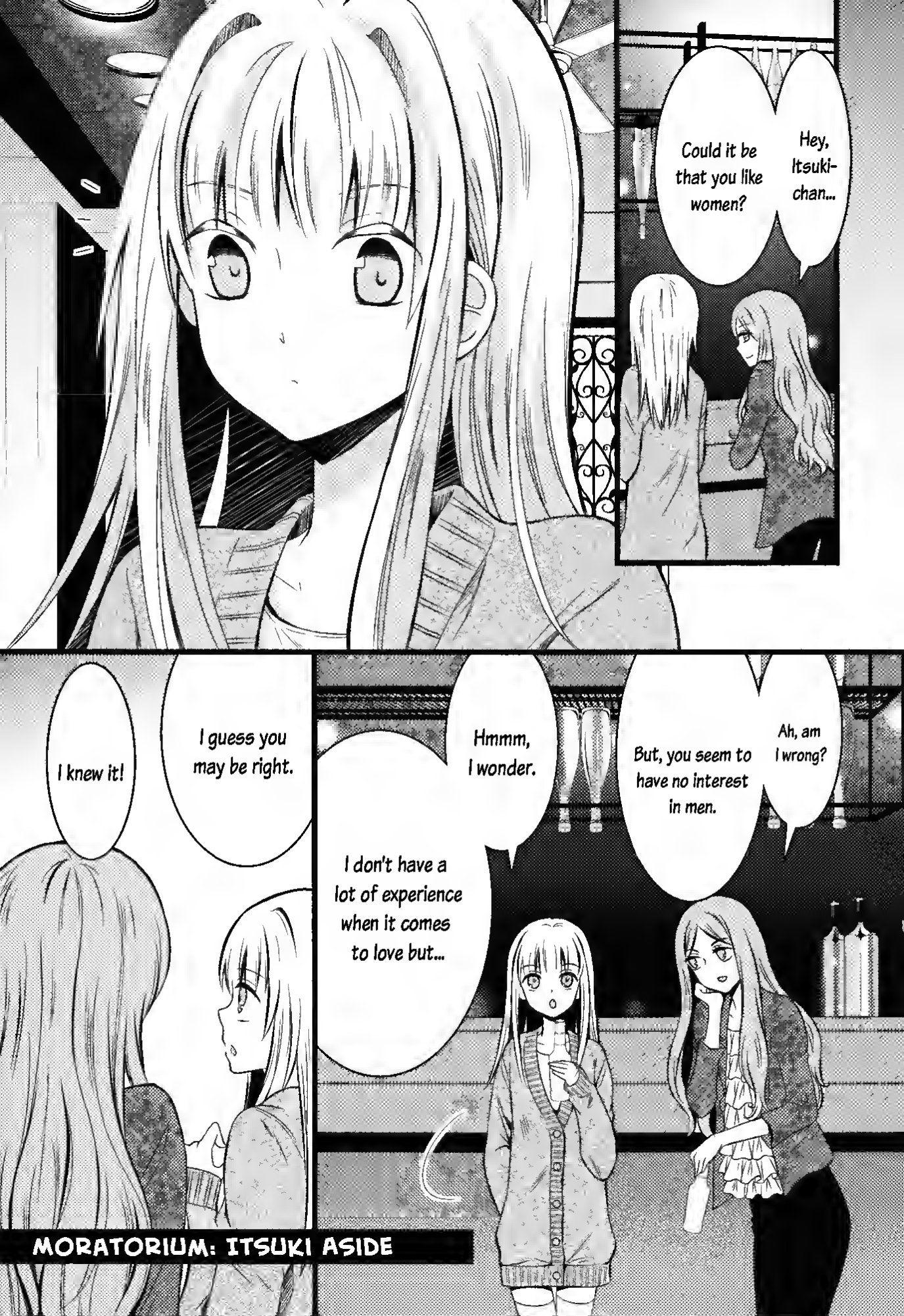
Hey, Itsuki-chan...
Could it be that you like women?
Ah, am I wrong?
But, you seem to have no interest in men.
Hmmm, I wonder.
I don't have a lot of experience when it comes to love but...
I guess you may be right.
I knew it!
MORATORIUM: ITSUKI ASIDE

Who?
Ah, a message.
I forgot to let her know I'd be late.
Ping
Eh? Well...
Ahaha...
Hey, then how about someone like me? Am I your type?
It's not like that.
She's not my girlfriend.
What?
You've got a girlfriend?
Dad
...The girl who lives with me.

You're pretty late.
Sorry, I was having a drink with someone from work.
Itsuki, welcome home! ♥
She's just a friend.
It's been two years since we started living together.
I'll pour you some coffee.
Our relatianship hasn't changed at all.
Thanks.

But, even if you're living with a long-time friend, well, you know...
We can just extend it, let's renew.
What'll we do?
Ah, seems our lease on this place is almost up for renewal.
Isn't it it hard for you to bring over your boyfriend or whoever?
When we graduated from college, Mao proposed we share an apartment.
Hmmm?
That was a coworker! I drank too much at the company drinking party, so...
How many times have I told you!?
Come on, I don't have anyone like that.
What about that guy who escorted you home the other day when you were drunk?

However, because of that,
Mao stopped worrying about losing me.
Mao feels completely secure with regards to me.
At first, I planned to refuse, but Moo insisted.
Well, you could also say I was simply so happy I couldn't say no.
She understands it's impossible for me to begin a relationship with someone else while she's by my side.
So she thinks it's okay for her to fool around with men as long as she's not obvious about it
Mao has a casual attitude about that.
I'm pretty sure she's still having sex.
I believe her when she says she doesn't have a boyfriend, but...

Ah.
Ping
co-worker
It's the
Already Read
Nevermind the serious stuff for now, let's just go on a date! ;D
Good Night
What's more, she's shallow, manipulative, foolish, and spoiled.
The Moo who is composed entirely of these ugly traits.
That's the same Maa who's so cute I can't help myself.
Glance
?

Hmmm, well,
we have a while until the renewal deadline, so let's think about it until then.
I'm going to take a bath, okay?
Clunk
It was Mao who held on to me, even once she became aware of my feelings.
FSSSSH
After that, there's no way I'd give up on her.
I don't plan on settling for just idly staying by her side, either.

I've opened my arms, and now I can just wait.
If she's afraid of losing me, she'll jump into my embrace of her own accord.
Hey, Itsuki.
You sure got home late today, where did you go?
Eh? I just told you.
I was drinking with a coworker.

No stopping for drinks on the way home, okay?
squeeze
Then... for tomorrow, let's have dinner together.
Hey, Mao...
.....

Then Mao, you hurry home as well, okay?
Do you think you're the only one who con be cunning?
...Got it.
Okay!
My thoughtless ond odorable Moo
fin.

KODAMA NAOKO
MORATORIUM: ITSUKI ASIDE
YURIPROJECT.NET

TRANSLATOR: SCHUYGUY
TRANSLATION CHECK: PROCYON
RAWS: PHYIS
EDITOR: GAYMER
QC: SCHUYGUY AND MUSICGOD96

EXTRA NOTES

"MORATORIUM" IN JAPAN USUALLY REFERS TO THE CHOICE SOME YOUNG PEOPLE MAKE TO DELAY STARTING A CAREER BECAUSE THE LIFE OF A PART-TIME OR TEMPORARY WORKER ("FREETER") IS PERCEIVED AS MORE RELAXING THAN HOLDING A FULL-TIME POSITION, WHICH OFTEN COMES WITH STRESSORS LIKE ENDLESS OVERTIME, A HIGHLY STRATIFED WORK ENVIRONMENT, AND THE EXPECTATION OF LIFELONG COMMITTMENT. THERE ARE MAJOR LEGAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY POSITIONS IN JAPAN. BECAUSE FREETERS ARE NOT DEDICATING THEMSELVES TO WORK, NOT PAYING TAXES INTO THE NATIONAL PENSION, AND USUALLY DON'T START FAMILIES, SOME VIEW THEM AS IRRESPONSIBLE AND SOMETIMES EVEN AS PARASITES ON SOCIETY. THUS, "MORATORIUM" IS A YOUNG PERSON'S CHOICE TO PURSUE THEIR WHIMS FOR A TIME AND PUT OFF ASSUMING THE LIFESTYLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES EXPECTED OF AN ADULT MEMBER OF SOCIETY. AN EQUIVALENT ENGLISH PHRASE MIGHT BE "REFUSING TO GROW UP" OR "FINDING ONESELF" DEPENDING ON THE VALUE JUDGEMENTS ATTACHED.

"COCYTUS" IS A CLASSICAL REFERENCE. IN ANCIENT GREEK MYTHOLOGY, IT WAS ONE OF THE FIVE RIVERS ENCIRCLING HADES (HELL). ITS NAME MEANS "LAMENTATION". IN HIS DIVINE COMEDY, DANTE ALIGHIERI USED THE NAME FOR THE 9TH CIRCLE OF HELL. THIS, THE DEEPEST PART OF HELL, WAS RESERVED FOR BETRAYERS, SUCH AS JUDAS, BRUTUS, CASSEUS, AND SATAN HIMSELF. COCYTUS IS A LAKE OF ICE IN WHICH TRAITORS ARE ENTOMBED AS PUNISHMENT FOR THE SIN OF TURNING AGAINST THOSE WHO TRUSTED THEM. THEY ARE TRAPPED IN PLACE, THEIR BODIES BLASTED BY A HOWLING FROZEN WIND WHERE THEY ARE NOT ENCASED IN ICE. EVEN AS THEY ARE SURROUNDED BY OTHERS, BETRAYORS SPEND ETERNITY ALONE, NEVER ABLE TO FEEL THE WARMTH OF HUMAN CONNECTION.